Nov. 29, 1955 L. F. HORVATH 2,724,848

PAINT BRUSH CLEANER

Filed April 27, 1953

Fig 1.

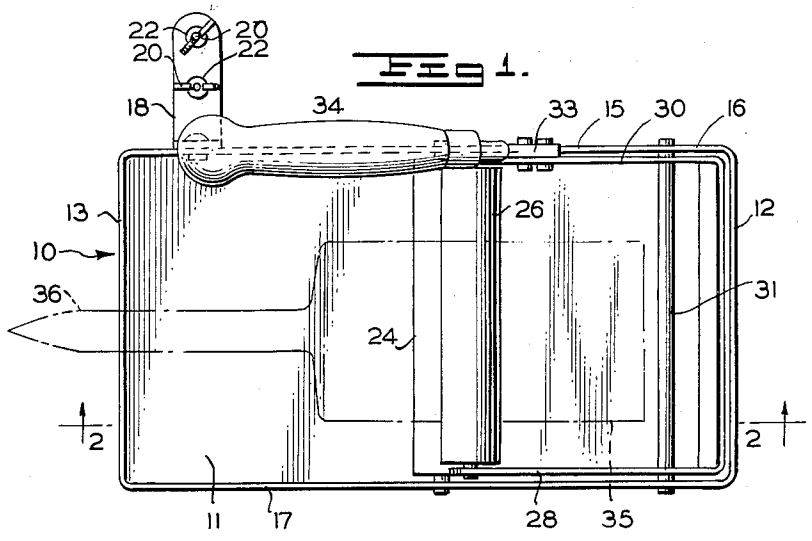


Fig 2.

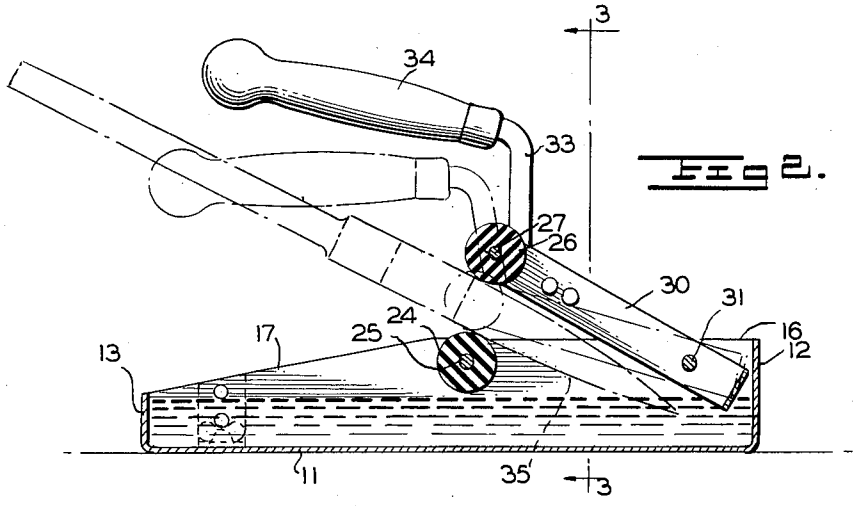
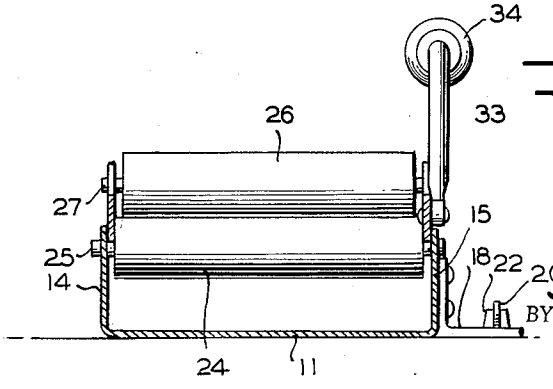


Fig 3.



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PAINT BRUSH CLEANER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 15—121.3)

This invention relates to a paint brush cleaner and has for an object to provide a quicker, easier, and more economical way of cleaning paint brushes.

The old method of cleaning paint brushes usually consisted of inserting the soiled brush in cleaning fluid, and then wiping it out by stroking the brush several times over old rags, newspapers, boards, etc., and repeating this process until the brush was clean. This takes time and is messy. This invention eliminates this, and provides a waste container for the used cleaning fluid. This invention also indirectly saves paint brushes by making it easy to clean them and thus eliminate the tendency to put them aside soiled or improperly cleaned, a practice which will readily ruin a brush.

Thus, this invention saves time, saves cleaning fluid, and saves the brushes.

A further object of this invention is to provide a paint brush cleaner wherein a tank is provided for receiving used cleaning liquid squeezed from the soiled paint brush between a pair of freely rotatable rollers with the used cleaning fluid draining from the rollers into the tank.

A further object of this invention is to provide a paint brush cleaning device including a tank which optionally may be readily yet detachably secured to a suitable support, so that it will remain fixed in position while being used, thus leaving one's hands free, one to hold the paint brush cleaned, and the other to operate a handle for squeezing the rollers together on opposite sides of the paint brush, and thus, squeezing the cleaning fluid therefrom.

Briefly, this invention consists of a tank which may be detachably secured to any suitable support, the tank being adapted to receive used cleaning fluid, and having one squeegee roller pivotally secured for free rotation between opposite sides of the tank, while a U-shaped frame is pivotally secured adjacent the end of the tank with a roller thereon, so positioned in the U-shaped frame, that it may be pivoted against the roller axially supported in the tank, and in addition, a handle is secured on the U-shaped frame having the roller thereon so that the roller may be moved toward or away from the roller axially supported in the tank to thus squeeze a paint brush held therebetween, and cause the fluid from the paint brush to drain back into the tank.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, this invention comprises the combination, construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter set forth, claimed and disclosed in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the paint brush cleaner of this invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 1, being on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

There is shown at **10** the paint brush cleaner of this invention consisting of a tank having a bottom wall **11**, one end wall **12**, and opposite end wall **13** of less height than the first end wall **12**, and a pair of opposite side walls **14** and **15**, the opposite side walls **14** and **15** having an

upper edge that is substantially horizontal beginning at the end wall **12** to about the mid-point thereof, and then is slightly bevelled as at **17** from that point until it reaches the other end wall **13**.

Attached to one of the side walls, as the side wall **15**, for instance, is an anti-tilting angle bracket **18** having a pair of spaced openings therein, whereby the bracket **18** may be placed over a pair of spaced bolts **20** which extend upwardly from a supporting surface **21**, and be secured thereto by a pair of wing nuts **22**, thus making it easy if desired to removably secure the tank **10** to a supporting surface **21**, which of course, may be a work bench or any other convenient supporting surface.

The side walls and end walls are of sufficient depth so that a sizeable quantity of used cleaning liquid or fluid **23** may be received therein, which, when it becomes sufficiently full, may be removed therefrom by merely loosening the wing nuts **22**, if fastened, lifting up the tank, and pouring the fluid out.

Extending between the side walls **14** and **15** is a squeegee roller **24** axially supported on a rod **25**, which in turn extends between and is secured to the side walls **14** and **15**, preferably at about the mid-point thereof.

A similar and second roller **26** is axially supported on a second axle rod **27**, the second axle rod **27** being mounted in the ends of the legs **28** of a U-shaped frame **30**, which is pivotally supported by means of a rod **31** adjacent the end **12** of the tank **10**. The distance between the second axle rod **26** and the pivoting rod **31** is approximately the same as the distance between the first axle rod **25** and the pivoting rod **31**. Attached to one of the legs of the U-shaped frame **30** in an upstanding arm **33** on which is supported a handle **34**.

In operation, the tank **10** may be suitably secured, if desired, to the supporting surface **21** by tightening the wing bolts **22**. The shorter height of the end **13** and the bevelled sides adjacent the same serves two purposes, one to prevent the used cleaning fluid **23** from being accumulated so full that it would stay in continuous contact with the lower roller **24**, which may be undesirable, due to the fact that cleaning fluids that dissolve paint may sometimes somewhat attack the material of the roller. The roller **24**, of course, is of any suitable material, such as rubber, or other plastic material, preferably one that is at least resistant to the action of the cleaning fluid.

Then, the handle **34** is raised permitting the bristles **35** to be inserted between rollers **24** and **26** as far as the bristle line, then the handle **34** is lowered to squeeze the bristles between the rollers **24** and **26**, and to hold pressure thereon while the brush **36** is slowly withdrawn, thus rotating the rollers and squeezing the soiled cleaning liquid or fluid therefrom, which drips into the container. This may be repeated as necessary by dipping the brush into a separate supply of clean fluid between each squeezing, until the brush is clean, whereupon it may be put away until it is needed for use again.

A second feature of having the sides of the tank bevelled is that it permits the handle **34** to be depressed more readily leaving more room for one's hand. When the operation is finished and the brushes have been cleaned, this tank or waste container **10** may then be removed from the support **21**, by releasing the wing nuts **22**, if secured, so that the waste cleaning fluid therein may be disposed of.

While the device has been shown and the structure described in detail, it is obvious that this invention is not to be considered as being limited to the exact form disclosed, and that changes in detail and construction may be made therein within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of this invention.

Having thus set forth and disclosed the nature of this invention, what is claimed is:

A paint brush cleaner comprising a rectangular cleaning

liquid tank open at its top, anti-tilting means on one outer side of said tank for detachably and rigidly securing said tank to a support, if desired, said tank having bottom, side and end walls, a squeegee roller member axially supported for free rotation between two opposite side walls of said tank at a substantial distance from one end wall of said tank, a U-shaped frame pivotally supported adjacent its bight between said same two opposite side walls and adjacent said same one end wall of said tank, a second squeegee roller axially supported for free rotation between the legs of said U-shaped frame at approximately the same distance from the pivotal connection of said U-shaped member to said tank side walls as said pivotal connection is spaced from said first mentioned squeegee roller, and a handle member secured to one of the legs of said U-shaped frame, said same tank side walls being beveled somewhat from said first mentioned roller to the end wall of said tank opposite said one end wall already mentioned, said side walls at their junction with said end wall opposite

said one end wall being of a height less than the lower surface of said first-mentioned squeeze roller whereby used cleaning fluid may not accumulate in said tank to a level in contact with said rollers and whereby a paint brush may be cleaned by dipping it into a container of clean cleaning liquid, inserting it between said two rollers while spaced apart, then operating said handle to pivot said second roller toward said first roller to squeeze the paint brush as it is withdrawn therebetween, and discharge the used cleaning fluid into said tank.

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